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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,249	05/04/2006	Kazuo Sato	SATO3032/GAL/PMB	6688
23364	7590	03/30/2009	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1176			AL HASHMI, SARAH	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		2853	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
03/30/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,249	Applicant(s) SATO, KAZUO
	Examiner Sarah Al-Hashimi	Art Unit 2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,5-10 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/2008

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/02/2009 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/17/2008 was filed after the mailing date of the final rejection on 10/29/2008. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1&2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Troitski (US 6,509,548).

Troitski teaches:

Claim 1: acquiring means that acquires, as information on the dot, at least two-dimensional position information of an exposed section of the workpiece, and density information of the dot (col 8 lines 59-61);

coordinate setting means that calculates, for each dot according to the density information, dot depth information showing the distance from the surface of the workpiece to the dot in the thickness direction of the workpiece, and sets three-dimensional coordinates for each dot based on a position specified by the dot depth information and the two-dimensional position information acquired by said acquiring means (col 9 lines 18-25); and

laser marking means that performs marking with the three-dimensional coordinates as a laser beam focal point to transform a portion inside the workpiece (fig 2 #7).

Claim 2: acquiring means that acquires, as information on the dot, at least two-dimensional position information of an exposed section of the workpiece, and density information of the dot (col 8 lines 59-61);

marking information setting means that calculates, for each dot according to the density information, dot depth information showing the distance from the surface of the workpiece to the dot in the thickness direction of the workpiece, and dot diameter information showing the diameter of the dot, sets three-dimensional coordinates for each dot based on a position specified by the dot depth information and the two-dimensional position information acquired by said acquiring means, and sets the dot diameter information for each dot in the three-dimensional coordinates, thereby forming marking information for each dot (col 9 lines 18-25); and

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laser marking means that performs marking by controlling a marking condition according to the marking information set by said marking information setting means (fig 2 #1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4,11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Troitski (US 6,509,548) in view of Ramlow (US 6,207,344).

Troitski does not teach but Ramlow teaches:

Claims 4&11: the workpiece is made of a light transmitting resin material, and comprises a core material, which is a colored material having light reflectivity, on the rear surface of the workpiece (abs).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Troitski to incorporate the workpiece is made of a light transmitting resin material, and comprises a core material, which is a colored material having light reflectivity, on the rear surface of the workpiece as taught by Ramlow in order to make the markings clearly visible.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,2,4,11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah Al-Hashimi whose telephone number is 571 272 7159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571 272 2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SA/

/Stephen D Meier/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2853